

The Catholic Parishes of Branxton & Singleton are part of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Second Sunday of Lent, Year C

13 March 2022

First Reading Gen 15:5-12, 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life
before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.' **(R.)**

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. **(R.)**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

Second Reading

Phil 3:17-4:1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 17:5

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:**

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Lk 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Transfigured Bodysouls

One often hears the conventional wisdom: 'All religions are the same, with somewhat different packaging.' But, do they believe the same thing about the human person?

What if one believed that the most vital part of a person was 'the soul' which alone was destined for Heaven? This is not the Christian belief.

Today's Gospel recounts that Jesus' body was transfigured. This was no out-of-the-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' body was totally translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Every molecule of his materiality was reverberating in the halo of divine glory.

That is the destiny which God desires for us also. When we are really in harmony with God, when we really participate in the life of God, then that Divine Life envelops and permeates our whole person, bodysoul. That is our ultimate destiny, but can it be anticipated in the lives of those close to God?

You might care to read the story of St Seraphim of Sarov from the Russian Orthodox tradition. A follower recounts the dazzling bodily transformation of the saint with the blaze of light spilling over onto the snow-covered meadow.

We might pause for a moment to affirm our Christian hope that, with God's grace, we will be radiant with Divine Light, our bodies immersed in translucent glory, filled with infinite joy in our hearts.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Third Sunday of Lent, Year C
1st Reading: Ex 3:1-8, 13-15
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12
Gospel: Lk 13:1-9



Prayer Requests

Sick: Bernadette Coffey, Helen Conlin, Dey Cowan, Janice Haines, Leanne Hardy, Austin Hoffman, Greg Jervis, Ricky Love, Sr Mary Markham, Mick McCrone, John Ottery, David Patton, Irene Robinson, Amelia Verdera Santana, Arlo Spicer, Anne Standing, Lorraine Winter, John Thomas and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Ann Boyd, Clare Clark, Connie Ryan, Des O'Connor, Harold Trunk, Robert Winter. **Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Josephine Stewart. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

Baptism: Sonny Scanlon (Greta). **Called by name to be a child of God.**

Parish Contacts

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Parish Priest | Rev Thomas Chirackal | Presbytery: 6578 9651 | Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au |
| Deacon | Rev Omeiza Solomon Okovido | Presbytery: 6578 9650 | Email: solomon.okovido@mn.catholic.org.au |
| Parish Secretary | Mrs Erica Janssen | Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton | Email: singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au Web: www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au |
| Facebook | Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton | | YouTube Twitter singletonbranxton @parish_sb |
| St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048) | | | |
| Singleton | <i>St Patrick's Church</i> | Queen Street Singleton 2330 | Contact: 02 5507 4048 |
| Broke | <i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i> | Wollombi Street, Broke | Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299 |
| Glendon Brook | <i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i> | 874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook | Contact: 6577 6168 |
| St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048) | | | |
| Branxton | St Brigid's Catholic Church | Station St, Branxton 2335 | Contact: 0407 381 525 |
| Greta | St Catherine's Catholic Church | Branxton Street, Greta 2334 | Contact: 0428 485 025 |

Schools in our Parishes

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|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| St. Catherine's Catholic College | Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol | K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600 | Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au |
| Rosary Park Catholic School | Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge | K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541 | Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au |
| St Nicholas Early Education Singleton | Director: Ms Ferne Owen | Office: 02 4015 2860 | Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au |
| St Nicholas Early Education Branxton | Director: Ms Natalie James | Office: 02 4931 1220 | Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au |

MASS ROSTER - SUNDAY 20 MARCH 2022

| | Branxton Saturday 6pm | Greta Sunday 8am | Singleton Sunday 7am | Singleton Sunday 10am | Singleton Sunday 6pm | Counters 9.30am Tuesday |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Welcomer | E Bendeich | D & J Clarke | C Crow | J Dries | | G McMillan |
| Commentator | | K Ingold | G Cattermole | | | |
| Readers | J Stafa S Stafa | L Gorczyca | C Spiteri D Thompson | J Bray T Cochrane | Gresham Family | |
| Prayers | | K Ingold | M Spinks | | J & A Phillips | Welcomers are required each week. |
| Offertory | J Partridge | J Gorczyca | | | J & A Phillips | |
| Rosary Leader | | L Gorczyca | | | | |

Faithful and compassionate God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy; hear the prayers we offer, that in the ministry to which you have called us, may we serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

WEEKLY MASS DIARY

Fr Thomas is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass. Please speak with him before Mass.

| Monday 14 March | Tuesday 15 March | Wednesday 16 March | Thursday 17 March ST PATRICK | Friday 18 March St Cyril of Jerusalem | Saturday 19 March ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY | Sunday 20 March 3 RD SUNDAY OF LENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 8.00am Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 5.30pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 8.45am Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 9.00am Novena 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton | 7.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm LOTW St Patrick's Singleton |
| | 8.50am Rosary 9.20am Mass St Catherine's Greta | | 9.20am LOTW St Brigid's Branxton | | 6.00pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton | 7.35am Rosary 8.15am Mass St Catherine's Greta |

St Brigid, St Catherine, St Patrick, and St Paul – pray for us

Weekly Notices

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We welcome visitors from all faith communities to our Parish Mass. If you are new members of our Parish, we ask that you take a Welcome Pack from the back of the church, complete and return the Member forms and one of our welcoming team will contact you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Wonnarua people, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of trust.

Stay Safe with COVID-19

NSW Health strongly advises people get fully vaccinated and wear a face mask where they cannot physically distance. Please continue to monitor for symptoms and if you are unwell, please stay home and take a rapid antigen test. If you test positive you must register your test result with Services NSW.

Visits to the Homebound

Those who are homebound and wish to be anointed or a clergy visit, please contact the Parish Office on 5507 4048.

Lenten Reflection Groups

A Lenten Reflection group will meet in Singleton each Wednesday after 9.20am Mass. All are welcome to join the group.

If you wish to attend a reflection group in Branxton-Greta please place your name on the list at the back of the church or contact Peter Conroy.

Way of the Cross During Lent

The Way of the Cross will be held in St Brigid's Church Branxton after Thursday morning Mass and in St Patrick's Church Singleton after Friday morning Mass. All are welcome to attend in preparation for Easter.

Singleton Parish Patron Saint Day



St Patrick's Day dinner to celebrate our patron saint's day on Thursday 17 March 2022 at 6pm in Club Singleton. Names are needed for booking. Mass will be said at 5.30pm that evening to allow time to get to dinner. All welcome. Please contact Frieda King on 0411 047 616.

2022 Parish Sacramental Programs

Expressions of interest are now being taken for Singleton and Branxton Parish children in year 3 or above, who have been baptised in the catholic church, and wish to receive the *Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion* this year. Please email the parish office with your child's name and a contact number and you will be sent details of the information session when it is available. Email singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au

If your child is not baptised but they wish to take part in the program this year, please contact the Parish Office.

BRANXTON PARISH PROGRAM INFORMATION MEETING

30 March 2022, 5.30pm St Catherine's Church, Greta

Please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate if they weren't baptised in Branxton or Singleton Parishes. If you don't have a copy you will need to contact the parish where they were baptised.

Maitland Central Clergy Fund – URGENT APPEAL

The COVID pandemic has brought great difficulties to parish life. Due to smaller congregations and difficulties in taking up the collections at Mass, the Central Clergy Fund (where the first collection is sent) is running low. Early in the pandemic the Fund was assisted by the JobKeeper payment, meaning payments for priests in the parishes could be maintained. The Fund totals for have dropped by over \$430,000 from 2018/19 to 2020/21. During the same period the collections in Branxton have dropped by \$18,000 and in Singleton by \$14,000. The situation is now urgent, and the Maitland Central Clergy Fund is asking parishioners to consider giving more to the First Collection at Mass or via direct debit.

Vinnies Flood Appeal

Many Australians need your help today. Your donation can provide:

- **Money for groceries, removing a major stress**
- **Clothing and essentials such as blankets and toiletries**
- **Support to recover, helping families to move back home and replace damaged furniture.**

Donate online today at <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-nsw-flood-appeal>

Caritas Australia Ukraine Appeal



The escalating violence in Ukraine is rapidly becoming a dire humanitarian crisis. In a matter of days, over half a million people have been forced from their homes and at least 400 civilians have lost their lives. Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground, supporting people in need during this unfolding humanitarian crisis.

Your urgent support today will help provide critical assistance including emergency shelter, food, clean water, transportation services, and psychological support to people affected by this crisis.

Donate today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

Prayer for the Appointment of Our New Bishop

Shepherding God

you reveal your way of unending love in the image of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost, shows compassion knows and is known by the sheep and lays down his life for them.

We your people of Maitland-Newcastle are without a bishop to shepherd us.

We ask that your Holy Spirit who moves through this great south land, inspire the choice of our new Bishop, empower his 'yes' and open our hearts in hospitality and love. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help pray for us Mary MacKillop of the Cross pray for us.

Marriage and Relationship Education

Pastoral Ministries offers a range of innovative, evidence based, award-winning marriage and relationship education programs that have been designed to enhance your relationship with your partner.

Before We Say I Do: Pre Marriage program

FOCCUS: Facilitating Open Couple Communication Understanding & Study

Enhance: Couples program

Sessions are currently operating on Zoom. Booking is essential 3- 6 months prior to the wedding to secure placement in the Before We Say I Do program. For more information contact Marriage & Relationship Education, Pastoral Ministries

P: 02 4979 1370 | M: 0412 637 090 |

E: robyn.donnely@mn.catholic.org.au



Biru 30, lives in a rural village in Jharkand State in India's east. He lost mobility in one of his legs, after contracting polio as a child, which makes it difficult for him to walk. With your generous support, Biru was able to access an entrepreneurship and livelihoods development program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India. He gained the skills, support and encouragement he needed to establish his own bicycle repair business.

Now, Biru is able to provide a good life for his family – and an essential service to his community. He has discovered a sense of pride, confidence and hope which has inspired others living with a disability and paved the way **For All Future Generations**.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help people living with disabilities in India gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to build a better future for all.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes or by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413



The Holy See

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2022

"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is a favourable time for personal and community renewal, as it leads us to the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For our Lenten journey in 2022, we will do well to reflect on Saint Paul's exhortation to the Galatians: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity (*kairós*), let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10).

2. Let us not grow tired of doing good" continued from last week

Let us not grow tired of praying. Jesus taught us to "pray always without becoming weary" (Lk 18:1). We need to pray because we need God. Thinking that we need nothing other than ourselves is a dangerous illusion. If the pandemic has heightened the awareness of our own personal and social fragility, may this Lent allow us to experience the consolation provided by faith in God, without whom we cannot stand firm (cf. Is 7:9). No one attains salvation alone, since we are all in the same boat, amid the storms of history; and certainly no one reaches salvation without God, for only the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ triumphs over the dark waters of death. Faith does not spare us life's burdens and tribulations, but it does allow us to face them in union with God in Christ, with the great hope that does not disappoint, whose pledge is the love that God has poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 5:1-5).

Let us not grow tired of uprooting evil from our lives. May the corporal fasting to which Lent calls us fortify our spirit for the battle against sin. **Let us not grow tired of asking for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation**, knowing that God never tires of forgiving. **Let us not grow tired of fighting against concupiscence**, that weakness which induces to selfishness and all evil, and finds in the course of history a variety of ways to lure men and women into sin (cf. Fratelli Tutti, 166). One of these is addiction to the digital media, which impoverishes human relationships. Lent is a propitious time to resist these temptations and to cultivate instead a more integral form of human communication (ibid., 43) made up of "authentic encounters" (ibid., 50), face-to-face and in person.

Let us not grow tired of doing good in active charity towards our neighbours. During this Lent, may we practise almsgiving by giving joyfully (cf. 2 Cor 9:7). God who 'supplies seed to the sower and bread for food' (2 Cor 9:10) enables each of us not only to have food to eat, but also to be generous in doing good to others. While it is true that we have our entire life to sow goodness, let us take special advantage of this Lenten season to care for those close to us and to reach out to our brothers and sisters who lie wounded along the path of life (cf. Lk 10:25-37). Lent is a favourable time to seek out - and not to avoid - those in need; to reach out - and not to ignore - those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit - and not to abandon - those who are lonely. Let us put into practice our call to do good to all, and take time to love the poor and needy, those abandoned and rejected, those discriminated against and marginalized (cf. Fratelli Tutti, 193).

To be continued next week